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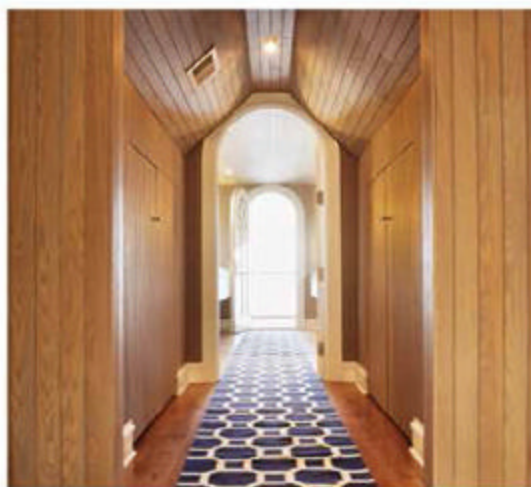
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TRADE WELCOME



JULY/AUGUST 2015

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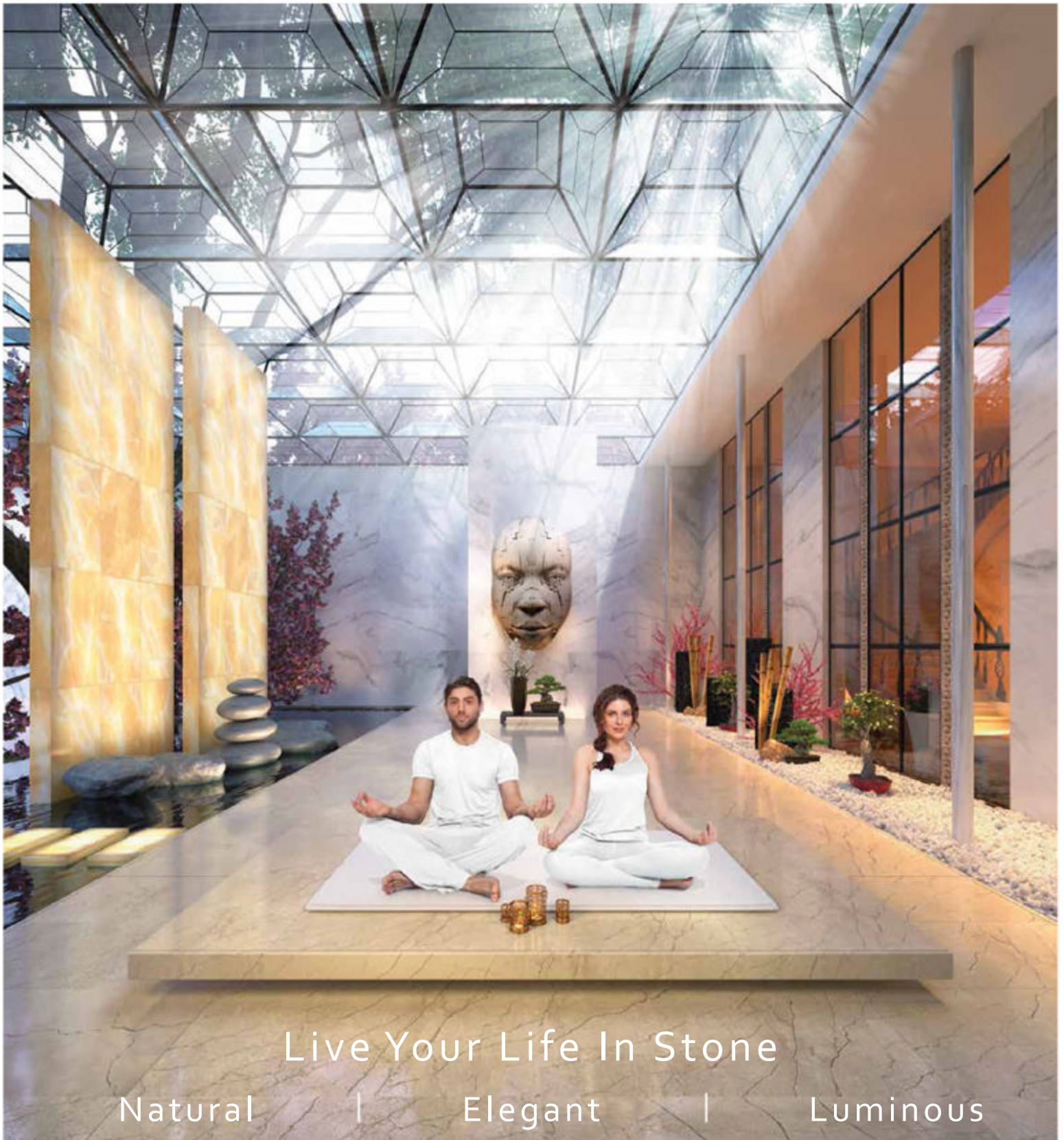
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Robert Couturier**
The design phemon
tells us what makes him
feel at home.



on the cover: DINYAR WADIA'S POTTING SHED/GUEST APARTMENT photograph by JONATHAN WALLEN

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JULY/AUGUST 2015

e-contents

what's new on **athomefc.com**



Party People!

Check out the latest local soirées—some shot by Moffly Media's new event photography + event division, Big Picture.



eye for style

Our readers know that great design goes beyond home and garden. That's why we think you might like the stylish specs from Parisian brand Lafont. Senior Editor Ann Kaiser has the scoop on our website.



Time for Tix!

A-List tickets are on sale, and discounted until **July 15th!**



SOCIAL MEDIA

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WE ASKED:

What's your latest beach read?

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MEGAN G.

A Visit From The Goon Squad has been in my iPhone's notes forever—now is the time!



AMBER S.

One of my favorite bloggers recommended this book—so I'm in!



KERRI F.

Bridal magazines—My wedding is less than two months away! Yikes!



JENNIFER P.

It's a real page-turner that I can't put down!



DONNA M.

I'm reading The Clouds Beneath the Sun by Mackenzie Ford, because it's based on historic fact and has a fast-moving plot. It's about an archeologist in Kenya in the 1960s involved with murder and the Maasai.



EMILY K.

People magazine so I can catch up on pop culture.

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MARYBETH WOODS MILLWORK DESIGN AND INTERIOR FINISHES



Me and Ann Kaiser at the athome Books launch party for Gardens at First Light by Stacy Bass, hosted by Lillian August in NYC.

Style Wave

We've covered the coast in this issue, from a Greenwich garden with an unbeatable view, to a Darien home with the best of family history and some new pieces from today, to a charming Southport cape that makes downsizing look very chic indeed. Everyone in Fairfield County knows that there is no better place to be in summertime. And whether you're hitting the beach or planning a party at home, you'll find some ideas to inspire in this issue.

This time of year is all about effortless entertaining. Now is the time to chill out with a cool drink and a great magazine (ahem, like the one you're holding) or a great book (see our staff picks for beach reads on page 10). Marcia Selden Catering shares a tasty drink recipe on page 29, and our market editor Megan Gagnon has rounded up some very trendy and fun paint-splatter pieces in Fashion House (page 27). Architect Dinyar Wadia invites you into the guest apartment on his property in "Lightening Up" on page 78, and designer Laura Tutun's pool house project ("Blue Lagoon," page 82) was made for pool parties, cookouts, and lounging with friends and family—and that is what summer is all about, isn't it?

We're not ready to let this season go just yet, but fall will be here before we know it—and we can't help but be looking forward to the 2015 A-List Awards! We hope you saved the date, September 10th, for our sixth annual A-List Gala at the Stamford Palace Theatre. Tickets are on sale now at athomefc.com—and until July 15th, we're selling them for a discounted rate, so don't delay! Consider it our version of an Early Bird special. Join us for design's night out!

Amy Vischio
Creative / Editorial Director
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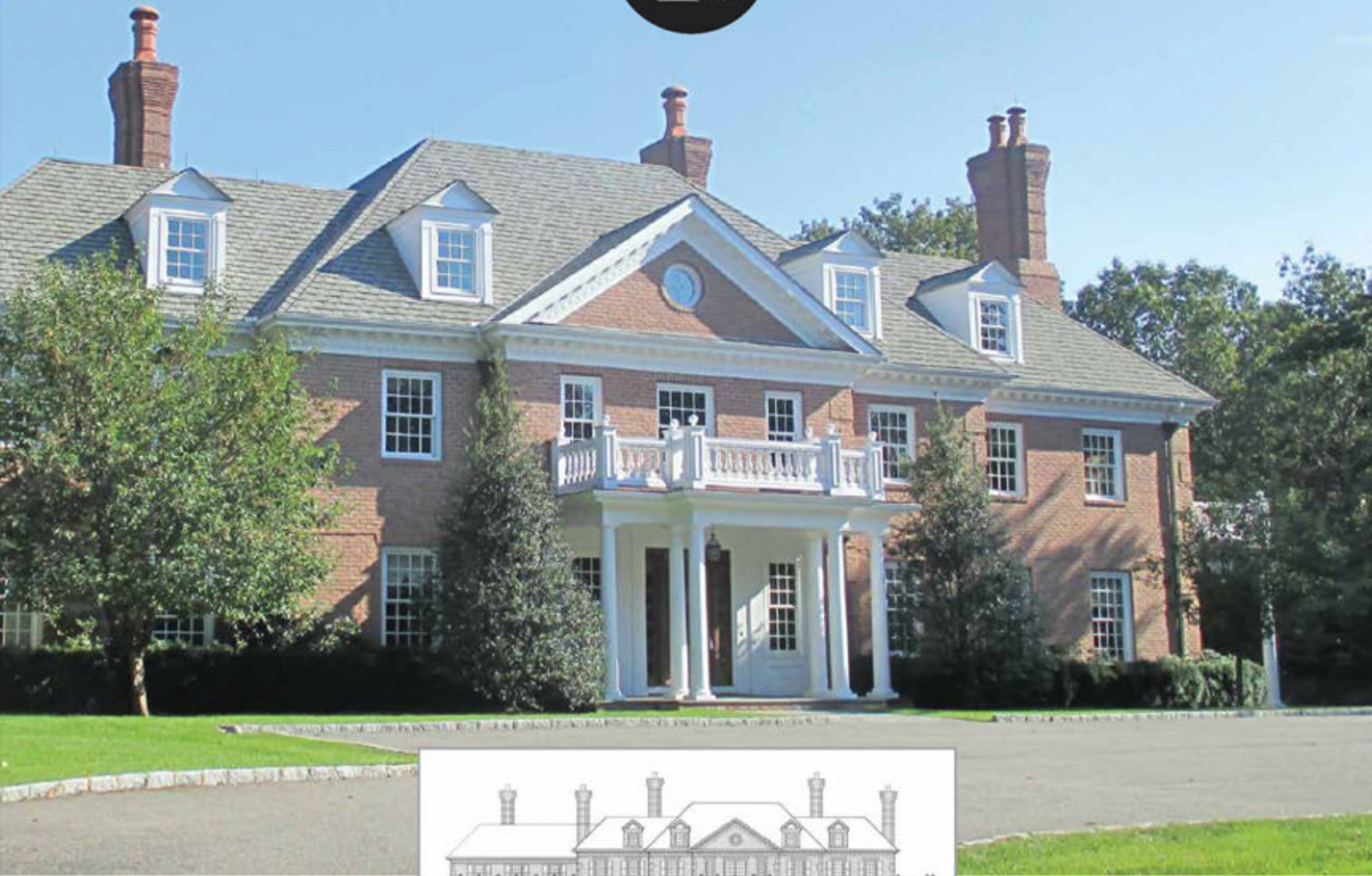
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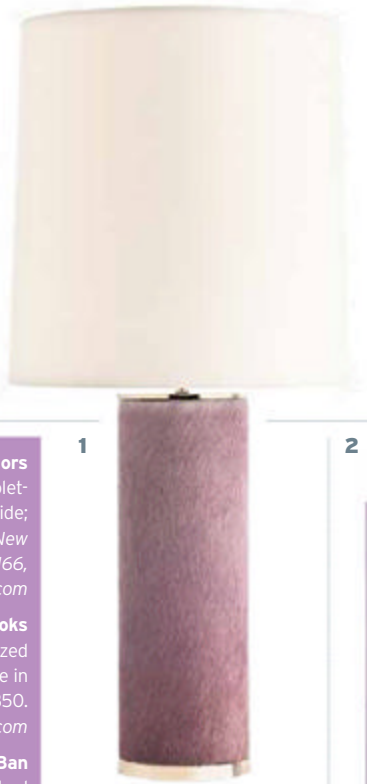
CT&NY

produced by MEGAN GAGNON

goods

ultra violet

Summer's unbeatable new hue is violet.



1

1 Arteriors

Kelli Lamp with violet-colored natural hide; \$930. *Pimlico*, New Canaan, 203-972-8166, pimlicohome.com

2 Juniper Books

Personalized cookbooks, available in fourteen colors; \$350. juniperbooks.com

3 Ray Ban

Aviator brushed bronze sunglasses in lilac; \$170. *Richards*, Greenwich, 203-622-0551; shop.mitchellstores.com

4 John Salibello

Pair of petite upholstered barrel back chairs; price upon request. johnsalibelloantiques.com

5 Matthew Studios

Freya large pull in Amethyst; price upon request. New York, 212-678-8626; matthewstudiosny.com

6 Marc Phillips

Jamie Bush Collaboration Topo Drift rug; \$8,800 for 8 x 10. marcphillipsrugs.com

7 The Urban Electric Co.

Grayfoxy designed by Steven Gambrel; \$8,960. urbanelectricco.com

8 Phillip Jeffries

Bermuda Hemp grasscloth wallpaper; to the trade. phillipjeffries.com

2



3



4



"Greyled lavenders and lilacs add depth and bring a femininity to the silvers and greys we see so much of. Brighter shades pop against mochas and warm taupes."

— MICHELLE MORGAN HARRISON,
MORGAN HARRISON HOME

5



6



7



8



tropical punch

Ride a wave of island style.



1



2

1 Anthropologie

Canyon fringe hammock; \$118. *The Westchester*, 914-397-9434; anthropologie.com

2 Beverly Hills Wallpaper

Martinique 'A' Wallpaper BH90210; \$352 per roll. designerwallcoverings.com

3 Gray Malin

St. Tropez Joy surfboard by Almond; \$2,499. graymalin.com

4 Bliss Home & Design

Teak Buddha chair; \$1,176. blisshomeanddesign.com

5 Island Style

by India Hicks; \$45. rizzoliusa.com

6 Property Furniture

Parq Life coffee table; \$12,700. New York, 917-237-0123; propertyfurniture.com

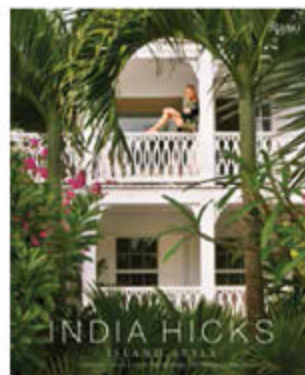
"An island interior should always carry **a hint of sand and salt**. Try to keep color to a minimum, so as not to compete with the kaleidoscope of color outside. **Dark mahogany, lots of white** and an oversized vase of greenery pretty much sums it up."

— INDIA HICKS,
INDIA HICKS INC.

3



5



4



6





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take it outside

Let the thrill of the grill lure you out to the patio.



1 ABC Carpet & Home
REEVESdesign cast aluminum table; \$2,595.

New York,
212-473-3000;
abchome.com

2 Fontana
The Gusto Wood Oven; \$4,899.
fontanaforniusa.com

3 Palacek
Capri outdoor arm chair; \$943.
Lynne Scalo Design,
Greenwich,
203-222-4991;
lynnescalo.com

4 Mario Luca Giusti
Acrylic whiskey tumbler; \$26 each.
Jung Lee, New York,
212-257-5655;
jungleeny.com

5 Waterworks
Lucca serving board, \$640. Greenwich,
203-869-7766;
waterworks.com

6 Caliber
Rockwell Grill; \$10,000.
williams-sonoma.com

7 Christian Bjørn
Lighthouse outdoor torch in black or white; starts at \$90.
Design Within Reach,
Stamford,
203-614-0787;
dwr.com



"Mise en place is key for entertaining al fresco. Have your ingredients chopped, sliced, measured, and placed in individual prep bowls on a large sheet pan **ready for transport."**

— JULIA DEANE,
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Loll Designs Deck chair in Sand; \$769.
lolldesigns.com



Industry of all Nations Panamericana chair; \$265.
aplusrstore.com



Polywood Classic folding Adirondack; \$269.
polywoodinc.com

decked out

These lounge chairs are ship-shape and ready for relaxation.



Royal Botania New England lounge chair; \$1,495.
royalbotania.com



Crate & Barrel Brant Turkish Tile folding chair; \$299.
crateandbarrel.com



Piet Hein Eek Bucketseat in Teak; \$563.
thefutureperfect.com



Loll Designs Gladys patio chair in Apple Red; \$749.
loll designs.com



Loll Designs Large Adirondack chair in Slate; \$575.
dwr.com



Mattiazzi Medici chair; \$1,239.
dwr.com



Room & Board Emmet lounge chair in orange; \$399.
roomandboard.com

Design News

New collections, haute happenings and more

by DAN HAJDUCKY and ANN KAISER

Odd Couple

Jens Risom and Chris Hardy team up on DWR's Ven Storage Collection

When famed designer Jens Risom, one of the first to bring Scandinavian style to America, recently came to Design Within Reach looking to refashion one of his early cabinet series with a younger designer, DWR suggested Chris Hardy. Houston-born Hardy, who designed DWR's Helix

Table in 2012, has an impressive design background, too—a fine arts BA from Detroit's College for Creative Studies and a master's in design from Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Design—but had only debuted his first furniture design at Salone del Mobile in 2011. Risom, now a Connecticut resident, was born nearly a hundred years earlier, in 1916, and has been designing professionally since 1942. On paper, they might have

seemed an unlikely match, but Risom's wealth of experience, coupled with Hardy's modern flair, gave birth to the retro chic Ven (Danish for "friend") Storage Collection. The collection includes gorgeous wooden cabinets, dressers, credenzas, wall units, and armoires that provide both efficient storage and visual appeal. With Hardy, Risom has made his iconic style brand-new in 2015. Check out the collection at dwr.com. —DH



Chris Hardy and Jens Risom with a piece from Ven

CUSTOM CAPABILITY

The Ven Collection is made to mix and match.



Shown in Oak, the Mixed Wall Unit includes adjustable shelving and five cord escapes with solid wood covers.



The Large Wall Unit has a spot for just about everything, with options for shelving, soft-closing drawers, and more.



The elegant Double Dresser has subtle style, with stainless steel or brass hardware.



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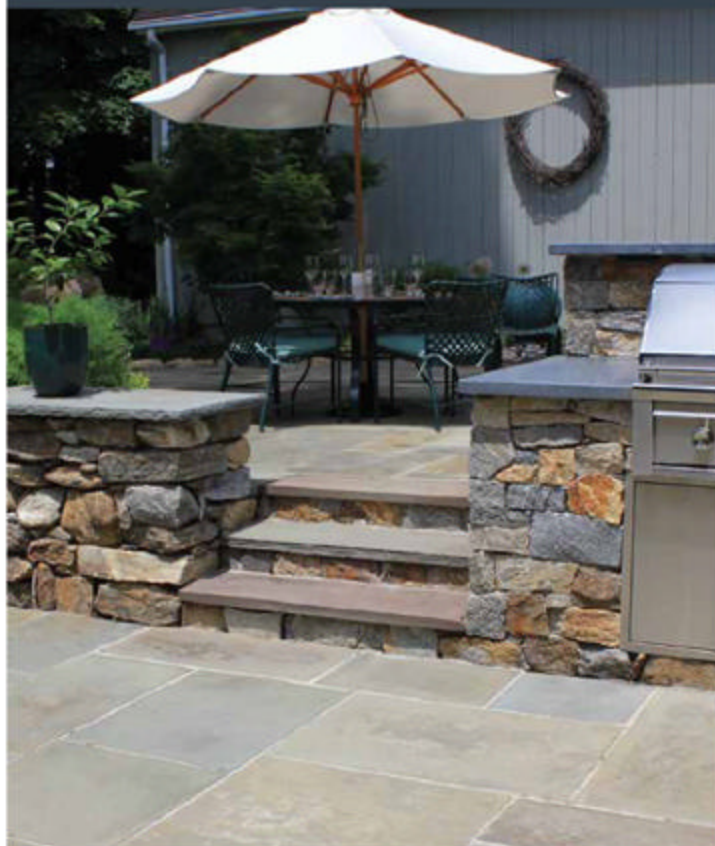


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A Cut Above

WOWHAUS: upscale pillows for the modern designer

Holly Jaffe launched WOWHAUS in 2013 with the aim to make elite pillows that would juxtapose textures and materials in residential interiors. "WOWHAUS is all about producing limited-edition and true custom collections for homeowners, hoteliers, and others who want nothing less than real exclusivity and [peak]-of-luxury experience," says Jaffe. Her A Little Slice of Heaven® line includes pillows that feature French milled calfskin, Italian suede, natural matte python, and Spanish nubuck, among others. The crème de la crème of the collection is a limited edition, hand-antiqued "rattlesnaked" leather and Tibetan lamb fur accented pillow. If you're looking for something to set your home apart, these pillows are it. Available at taigan.com, and Katie Fong Boutique, 60 Lewis St., Greenwich, 203-717-1660, wowhaus.com. -DH



No "fluff" here: A Little Slice of Heaven pillows have serious style.

ROOM TO GROW

Bunny Williams opens a flagship showroom in the New York Fine Arts Building

Top interior designer **BUNNY WILLIAMS** recently set up shop in New York City's Fine Arts Building. Her new showroom will feature tables, chairs, lamps, desks, accessories, and more from Williams' Home collection. Williams says of her Home line: "Whether you're updating a room or redecorating the entire house, our designs are created to work with any interior and in any mixture of styles." Williams' signature "organized clutter" look speaks to the upscale tearooms of England's The Chatsworth House and London's Milestone Hotel, and could speak volumes in your home as well. Check out the *Fine Arts Building* at 232 E. 59th St, New York, NY; thefineartsnyc.com. -DH





WINNING LOOKS

Attending the A-List Gala in Stamford on September 10th? Our finalists brought their "A" game with their projects. Now it's time to do the same with your fashion! Want to make our best-dressed list this year? Don your most striking duds, and come to design's big night out. **Tickets available at athomefc.com.**



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front row finds

How fashion informs the rooms we live in.

Leif Cherrydrops
blanket; \$168. leifshop.com



Barn Light Electric
Set of five enamel graniteware
nesting bowls in jadeite; \$130
barnlightelectric.com



Biscuit
Austin standard
sham; \$65.
biscuit-home.com

Eugenia Kim
Courtney
hat; \$365.
eugeniakim.com



POLLACK PRINTS



Blue-splattered
walls in a
sitting room
by Lilly
Bunn.

There's beauty in the chaos with **paint-splatter prints**, which inject whimsy into your space while making an abstract artistic statement. Embrace imperfection and try primary-colored shades, as seen on the **Milly** runway.



Jonathan Adler
Jackson coaster
set; \$88.
jonathanadler.com

West Elm
Galaxy sheet
set; \$29-\$119.
westelm.com



Manolo Blahnik
Natural Linen Paint
Splatter Pump,
90mm; \$745.
shop.mitchellstores.com



Unelefante
Pollock chocolate
bar; \$13.
colossalshop.com





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WHITE PEACH SANGRIA

INGREDIENTS

2 (750ml) bottles of white wine
 1/2 cup Cointreau (orange Liqueur)
 1 cup green grapes
 2 limes, thinly sliced
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 liter club soda
 2 cups peaches, thinly sliced
 1 green apple, thinly sliced
 Mint sprigs for garnish

PREPARATION

Combine sugar, Cointreau, limes, grapes, peaches, and apples in a large pitcher. Cover with wine and chill sangria several hours. To serve, spoon fruits into glasses or goblets, pour wine mixture over top of the fruit. Top glasses of sangria off with a splash of soda water, garnish with mint sprig and serve. Serves 16 glasses of thinner consistency.

Q: What's an easy summer drink that I can make in large batches for entertaining?

A: Cool and refreshing white sangria is the perfect way to elevate your backyard bbq or kickoff your outdoor dinner party. The colorful combination of seasonal fruit, fresh mint, and crisp wine makes it an ideal cocktail for planned events or impromptu gatherings. Plus, you can make it ahead of time and leave it to chill while you get ready for your guests. Summer entertaining should at least appear easy—and this is truly effortless. Our twist on the classic, with white wine, peaches, and apples, will have you toasting the warm weather all season long.

PITCHER PERFECT

Sangria is as pretty as it is tasty—don't waste its good looks by serving it in a punch bowl. A shapely glass pitcher is the perfect vessel to show off this summery drink.



Crate & Barrel
 Ona large pitcher;
 \$24.95.
crateandbarrel.com



Mario Luca Giusti
 Palla Pitcher;
 \$68.
barneys.com



Marquis by Waterford
 Vintage Martini Pitcher with Stirrer; \$79.
waterford.com

house parties

athome Books launch: *Gardens at First Light*

BOOK SIGNING AT LILLIAN AUGUST, NEW YORK CITY



1 Author Stacy Bass with Lillian August's Dan and John Weiss **2** The outside of the flatiron storefront
3 Jonathan Moffly, Stacy Bass, Amy Vischio and Ann Kaiser **4** Fran Nitti, Alissa Keegan, Leah and Michael Strauss **5** Howard, Benjamin, Ilysa, Stacy, Emily and Michael Bass **6** Byron Avery, Linda Andros, Jeanne Craig **7** Gabriella Mays, Moshe Aelyon, Lorin Klaris
8 Alexandra Spanakos, Elizabeth Ethridge McGann, Lisa Marie Gina **9** Tony Prandini, Nicole Sauro, Tony Klimas, Howard Bass **10** Judy Ostrow, Cindy Shumate
11 David and Lauren Sussman, Eleanor Bregman, Melissa Kane, Laura Schlanger Maged

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANI LUST

BOOK SIGNING AT WHITE BIRCH STUDIO, WESTPORT



1 Mar Jennings with Sally and Peter Cadoux **2** Janet Samuels, Joanie Landau, Susan Anderson with Stacy Bass (in front) **3** Rick Swann, Heather O'Neill, Amy Vischio **4** Kitt Shapiro, Wende Cohen, Moshe Aelyon, Susan Anderson, Gabriella Mays **5** Betsy Berman, Amy Goldberg, Ronit Tarshis **6** Jim Gerrity, Alex Smith, Sophie Buggs **7** Front row: Kim Zeiss and Sara Gardner; Back row: Beverly Berkson, Susan Anderson and Eric Simmons of White Birch Studio **8** Ellen Baldwin and Heather Kreidler **9** Westport's White Birch Studio **10** Jennifer O'Reilly and Wendy Brown **11** Jack and Alison Feuer, Glenn Levin, Ali Hokin

house parties

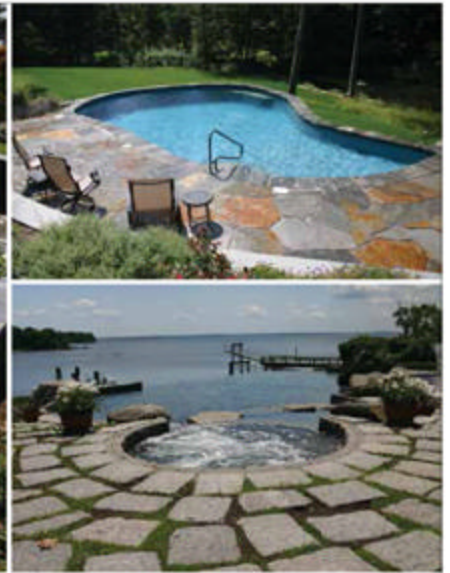
OGRCC Kitchen Tour

OLD GREENWICH



- 1** Dawn Jackson, Susan Ellison, Kate Tabner, Holly Gregoire, Heather Wise
- 2** David Junius and Rosemarie Hyson
- 3** Kendra Farn, Laura Laitala, Suzi DiFrisco
- 4** Eileen Deschappelles and Maureen Santini
- 5** Ingrid Winn, Daphne Lamsvelt-Pol, Theresa Fellows, Penny Echevarria
- 6** Lunch at Le Fat Poodle in Greenwich
- 7** Mary and Barbara Schneider
- 8** A sunny breakfast nook
- 9** Toni Colandro of Aux Delices
- 10** A mid-century inspired dining area
- 11** Patty Cooney, Penny Hoyt, Diane Alecci, Vicky Gaily
- 12** Amy Zeppelin, Tim Muldoon

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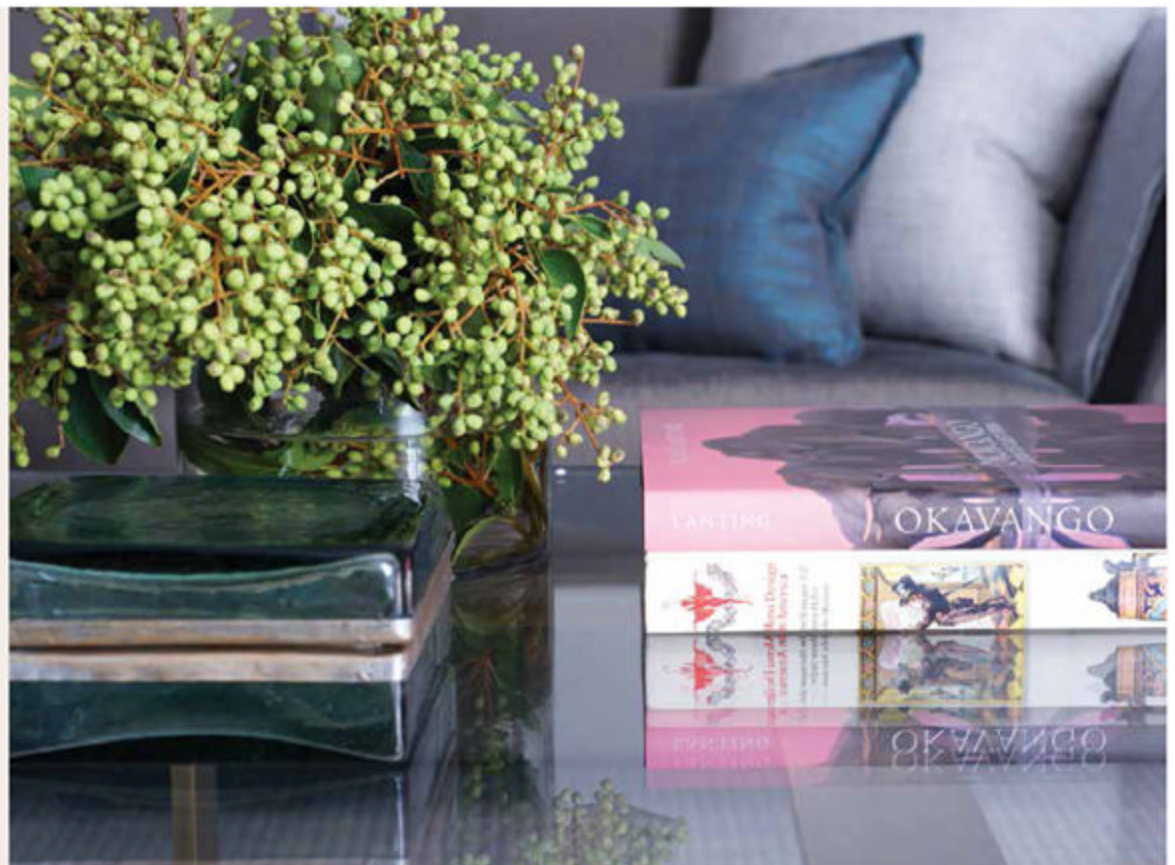
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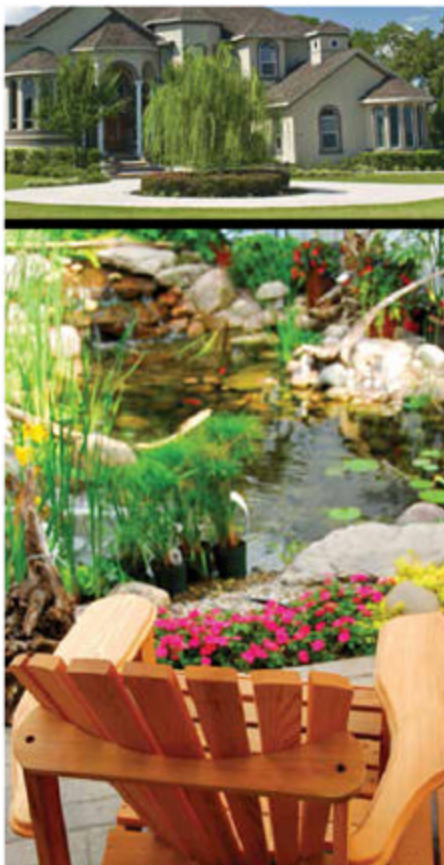
Single Artist Show Opening: Melinda R. Smith

MICHAEL FLORIO FINE ART & DESIGN, GREENWICH

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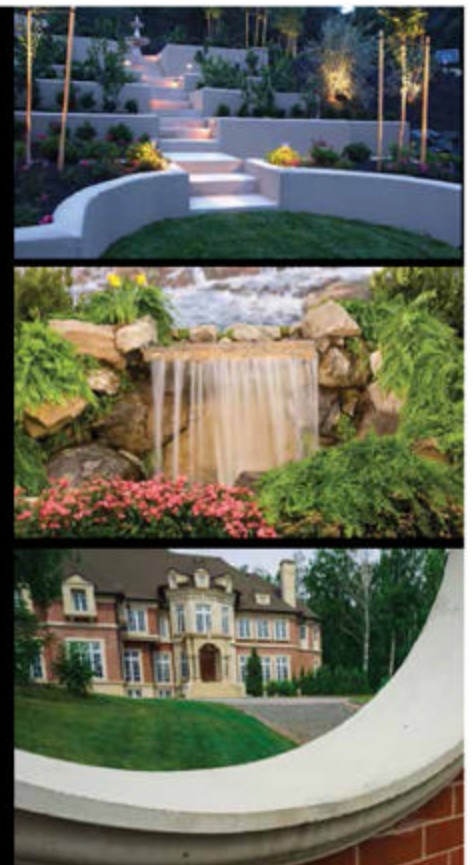
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PHILIP JOHNSON GLASS HOUSE, NEW CANAAN





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1 Katherine Malone-France, Scott Drevnig 2 Christa Carr, Cole Akers, Katherine Malone-France, Greg Sages 3 Lara Cocken, Georgia Wright 4 Alexandra and Melissa Standing 5 Matthew Crucius, Melissa Mentuck, Ryan Garvey, Kim Phillips 6 Enoc Perez, Bob Colacello, Christy MacLear, Dana Evans, Carol Perez 7 Andrea Franchini, Eva Vai, Christopher Wolf, Kyle Hotchkiss Carone, Ali Barker 8 John and Bonnie Edelman, Nada and Avery Stirratt 9 Joseph La Piana 10 Angela Pham



Greenwich Affair Launch Party

GABRIELE'S, GREENWICH



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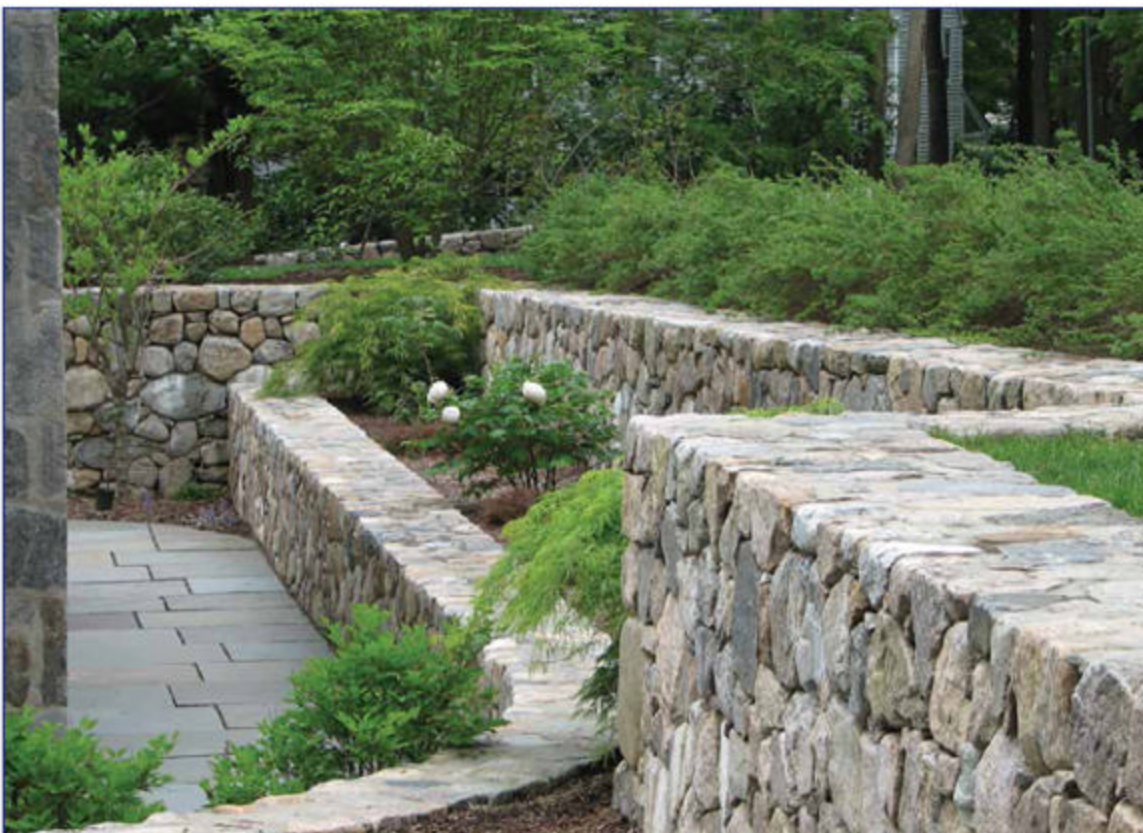
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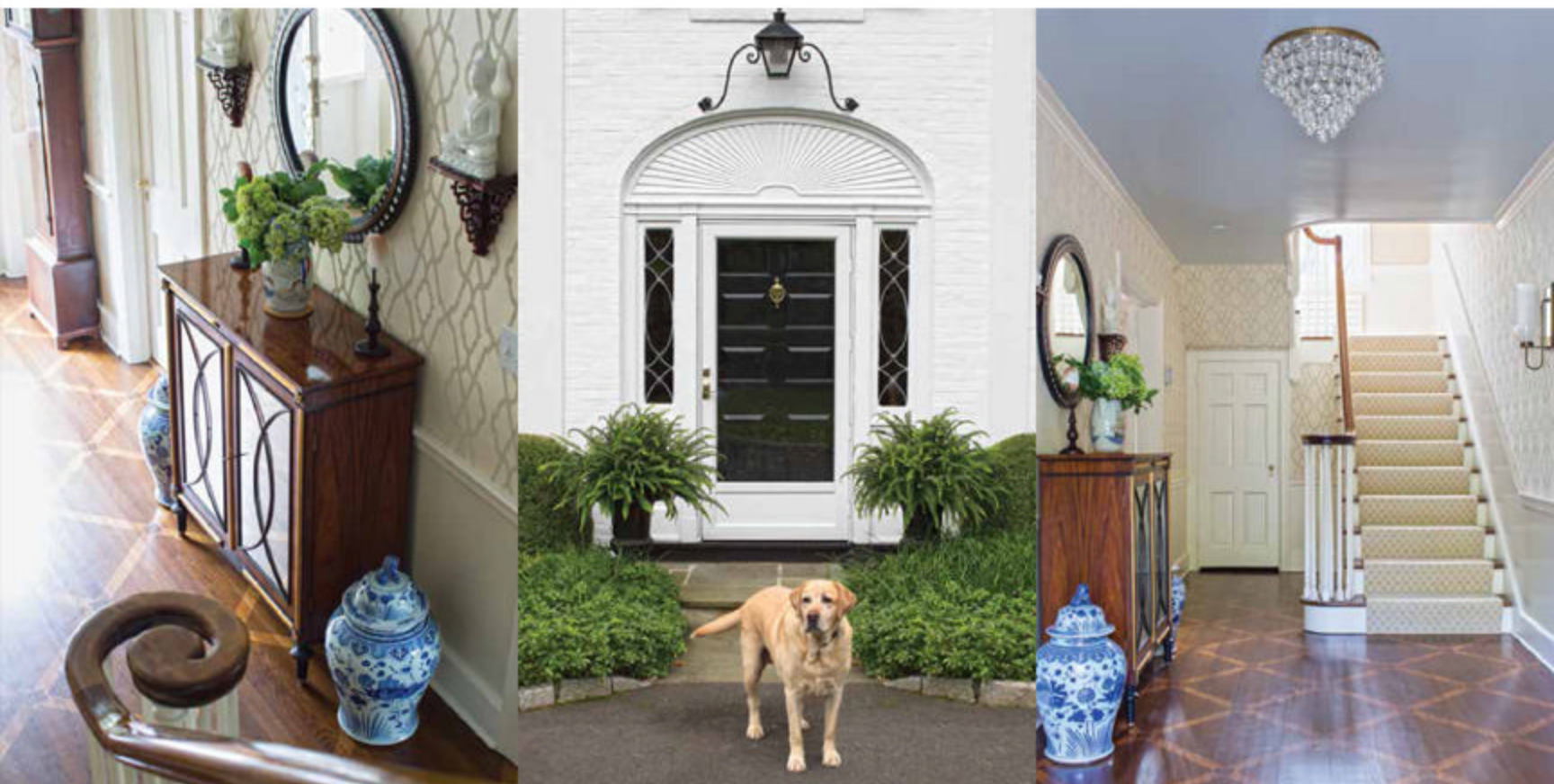


color story

Inherited pieces fit in seamlessly in a refreshed Darien home.

by ANN KAISER photographs AMY VISCHIO





Over a ten-year career in design editorial, the owner of this home has gotten inside the heads of some of the best in the business. “I learned something from every designer I ever interviewed, from Mario Buatta to Amy Lau to Vicente Wolf,” she says, “but the one I learned the most from is Sandy.”

“Sandy” is otherwise known as interior designer Sandra Morgan, who worked with former *New York Times* reporter and founder of WriteNow Valerie Cruice and her husband, Jay, to incorporate the best of both the past and present into their home in Darien. The couple have lived there for over thirty years, and the interiors hadn’t been updated much since the homeowner decorated it with her interior designer mother around that time. “Floral chintz was on every window and chair—very Reagan-era,” laughs the homeowner. She’d been trying to redecorate for a while, collecting bags and bags of wallpaper and fabric samples, but as every design-minded pro knows, your own home is always the hardest. “I knew what I wanted, but I couldn’t execute it,” she says, but when she saw Sandra’s work in another magazine, “It resonated with me.” Sandra was familiar with her client’s work, too, and they worked out a partnership. “Once we started playing off each other, it was amazing,” says Valerie.

The two were on the same page right from the beginning, and the project proved to be a

It’s all about the details in the entryway, from the icy blue-painted ceiling to the stenciled floors. Mac, one of the couple’s three dogs, welcomes guests out front.

opposite: The vibrant living room is always in use. “You can see the life in it,” says Sandra.

Sandra introduced the homeowners to artist Penny Putnam, whose piece hangs above the living room sofa. The walls are painted a custom coral.



A Bungalow 5 bamboo chair from SM Home is a fun counterpart to the secretary the homeowners purchased at the Charlottesville Auction House during graduate school. Their tennis trophies fill the cabinet.



“Our task was really **TO INFUSE** a beautiful, very traditional setting with a **YOUNG, UPBEAT, FRESH FLAVOR.**”

—SANDRA MORGAN

great collaboration. “If she didn’t say it first, I said it first,” says Sandra. “There were so many times when one of us would say, ‘I was just going to say that.’” Her client is quick to give the designer credit: “We really ham-and-egged it, but Sandy was the guiding force,” she says.

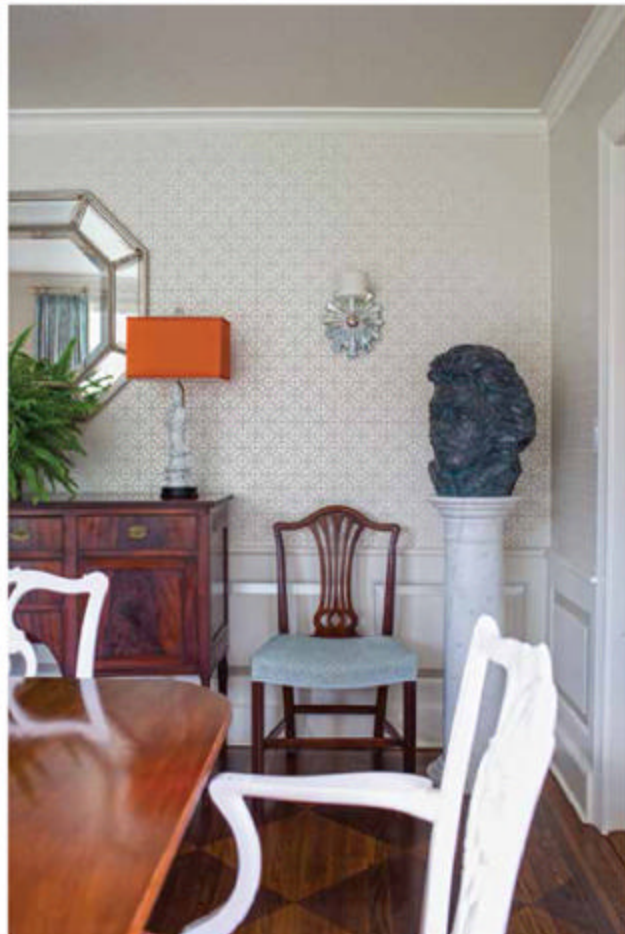
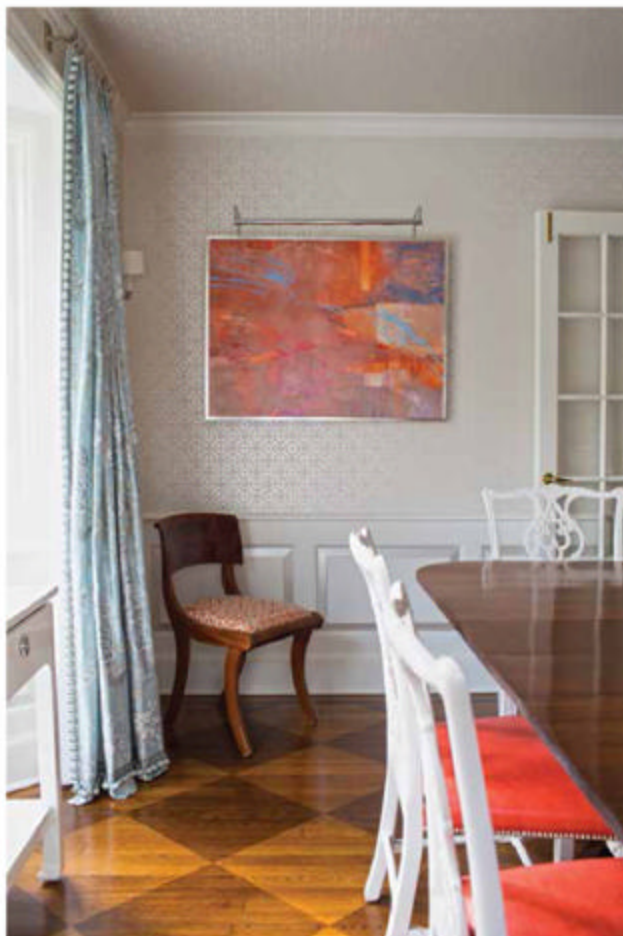
“Our task was really to infuse a beautiful, very traditional setting with a young, upbeat, fresh flavor,” says Sandra. To start the process, the designer first took a look

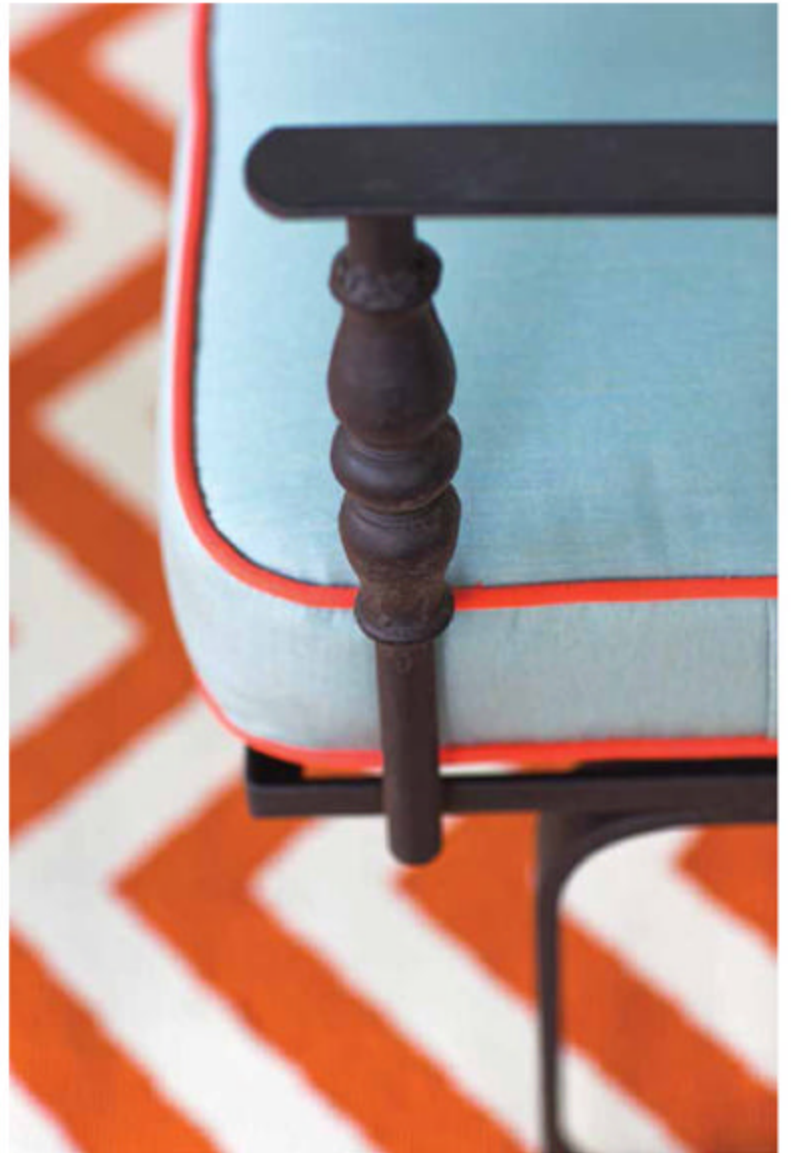
at what the couple already had, including quite a few family pieces, which they wanted to incorporate into the new design. “They really wanted to respect those and integrate them into their lifestyle,” says Sandra, but the pieces needed some rehabbing to make them fit seamlessly into the much-updated interiors.

Perhaps the most important of those pieces is the antique rug in the living room, which came from Jay’s child-



"Stream of Consequences" by Penny Putnam hangs in the dining room. Floor stenciling is by Lawrence Oliver. opposite: Sandra used silk Anna French "songbirds" fabric on the dining room drapes, and covered the walls and ceiling in Osborne & Little's "Fretwork" paper.



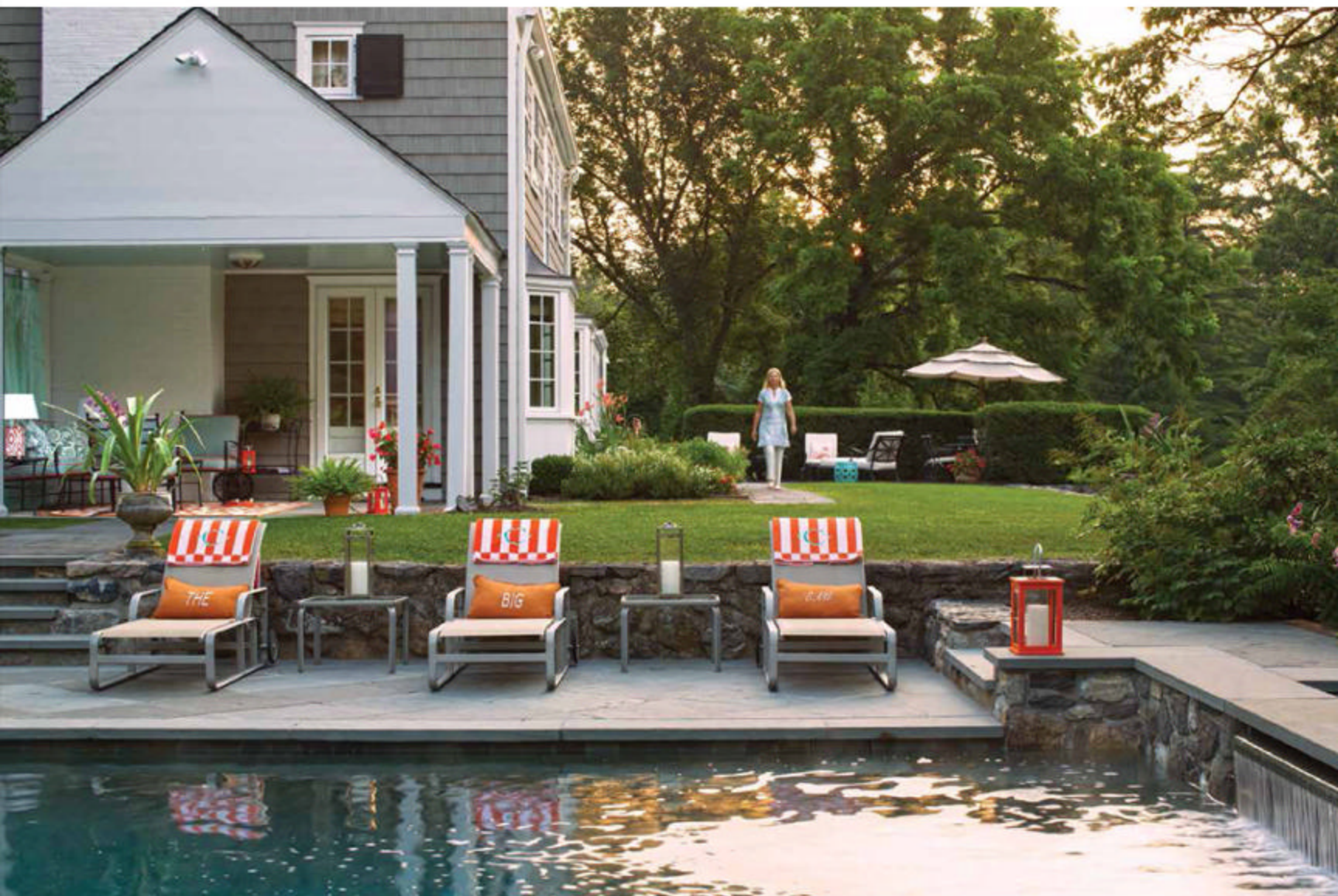


Mac relaxes on the patio near the pool. Chevron lamps from SM Home flank the sofa, with cushions upholstered in Sunbrella fabrics. The embroidered panels are from the Irish Linen Shop in Bermuda.

hood home in Delaware. It was in bad shape when it arrived in Connecticut, but after a restoration by Proudian, the revived hues drove the color palette on the first floor. “When you have something of quality, it’s just going to keep coming back,” says Valerie. Some other quality pieces from her husband’s family are the Chippendale camel-back sofa, now recovered in a Holly Hunt fabric, and the show-stopping loveseat in the living room.

Other pieces were finds in the homeowners’ long history at the house. The blue lamps flanking the fireplace were retrieved from an old furniture shop in Darien in the 1980s. Around the same time, Valerie wanted a big mirror for over the fireplace, so off she went, six months pregnant, to United House Wrecking, and spotted the gold antique that now hangs there.

It’s the mix that gives this home its unique personal-



"I love to play with words, and I don't want to take things too seriously," says the homeowner, who had pillows with the cheeky inscription "The Big Eau" made for the lounge chairs near her (relatively) small pool.

ity, though, the merging of modern and traditional. The vibrant living room wall color was taken from the antique rug. "[The homeowners] are full of life, so doing a coral room that was warm and lively and rich was very appropriate for who they are," says Sandy. A pair of custom Lucite tables sit in front of the love seat in the living room, and in a nod to Valerie's days as a concert pianist, a bust of Beethoven by Peter Rubino sits on a pedestal in the

living room. The lighting, too, is a mix of sleek and traditional pieces, which serve an important function in each space. "Without the right lighting, it doesn't matter what else you do. You can make the most beautiful room in the world, but if the lighting isn't right, no one will appreciate it," says Sandra. A mix of floor and table lamps, and overhead and wall lighting gives the homeowners the opportunity to highlight different areas and play with mood.

A photograph of a well-maintained backyard. In the foreground, there is a green lawn. A stone patio leads to a swimming pool with a stone border. Two large, ornate planters with green plants and purple flowers sit on the patio. A lounge chair with a red and white striped cushion is near the pool. The background is filled with dense green trees.

"When you have something **OF QUALITY** it's just going to keep coming back."

—THE HOMEOWNER



The contemporary works of artist Penny Putnam are also illuminated in the living room and dining room. In the latter space, the homeowners opted out of traditional-feeling Gracie panels in favor of a fretwork paper from Osborne & Little, which adorns the walls and ceiling and creates a kind of gazebo effect. Ballgown-esque Anna French fabric drapes hang from modern Lucite rods, and complete the shimmering space. The wooden dining chairs were lacquered in white, and orange faux-leather seats make a statement without being high-maintenance.

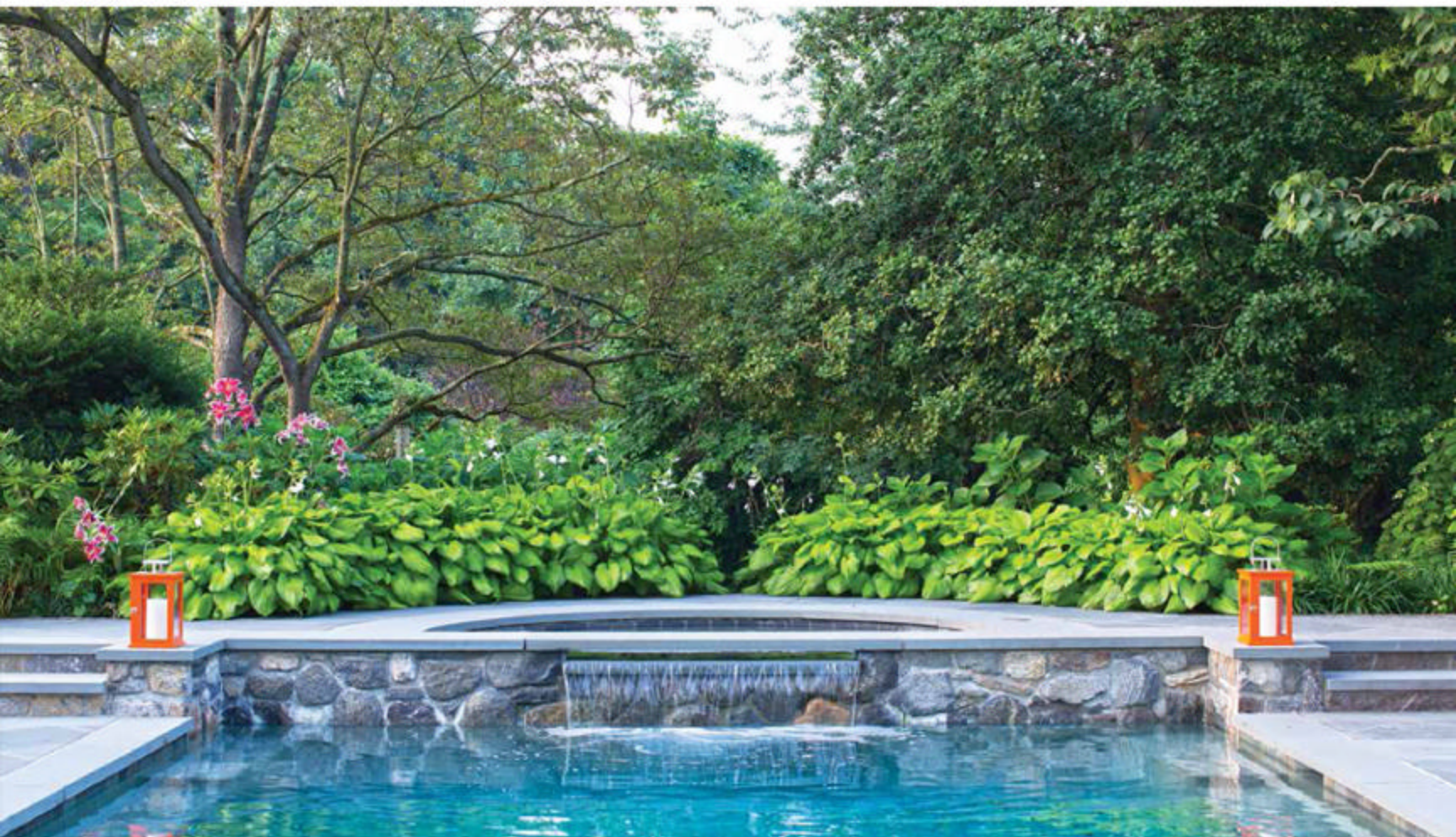
Across the lawn, the pool house is both a getaway and a guest space. When the homeowners put in the pool and pool house about eight years ago, Valerie chose to tackle the project herself. Their oldest child had just gotten engaged, and it made the couple rethink their spaces. “All of sudden, when something like that happens, you look at your house in a completely different way,” says Valerie. “We’d been putting it off, and that spurred us into ac-

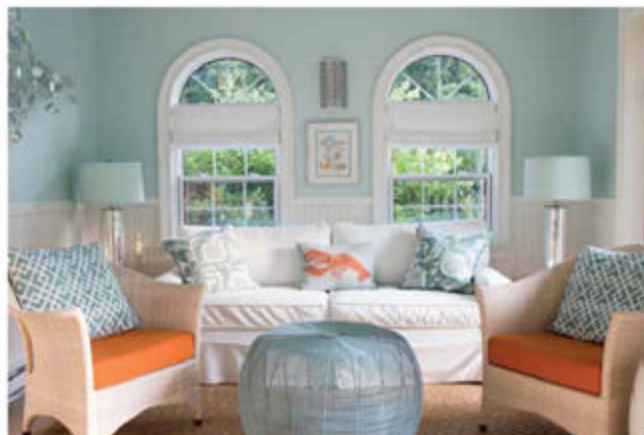
tion.” The blue-and-orange color scheme is as lively as the palette in the main house, making the space a wonderful spot to relax and entertain guests in the warmer months.

Combining the past and present is no easy task, but incorporating meaningful pieces—and design sense honed over years in the business—into a home is what makes it truly personal and special. After more than three decades in this house, it really looks like the couple who live there. “We finally feel like it’s an accurate reflection of who we have evolved into at this point in our lives,” says Valerie. Which just goes to show, it’s not always a bad thing when history repeats itself, as long as you learn along the way—and give it a modern twist. 

RESOURCES

Sandra Morgan Interiors, Greenwich,
sandramorganinteriors.com
WriteNow LLC, writenowdone.com





The pool house was Valerie's project and is now a great place to entertain guests. The palette of blue and orange echoes the patio furniture off the rear of the main house. opposite: Orange lanterns stand out against a natural backdrop of green.



"We finally feel like it's an **ACCURATE REFLECTION** of who we have **EVOLVED INTO** at this point in our lives."

—THE HOMEOWNER

by ANN KAISER photographs AMY VISCHIO

SOUTHPORT STYLE

A charming coastal cape is just right for its new owner.

Virginia loves being so close to everything in town. "It's nice being on the main street," she says. "It's really a fun place to be."

opposite: Silvia Erskine suggested lowering the stone wall out front.



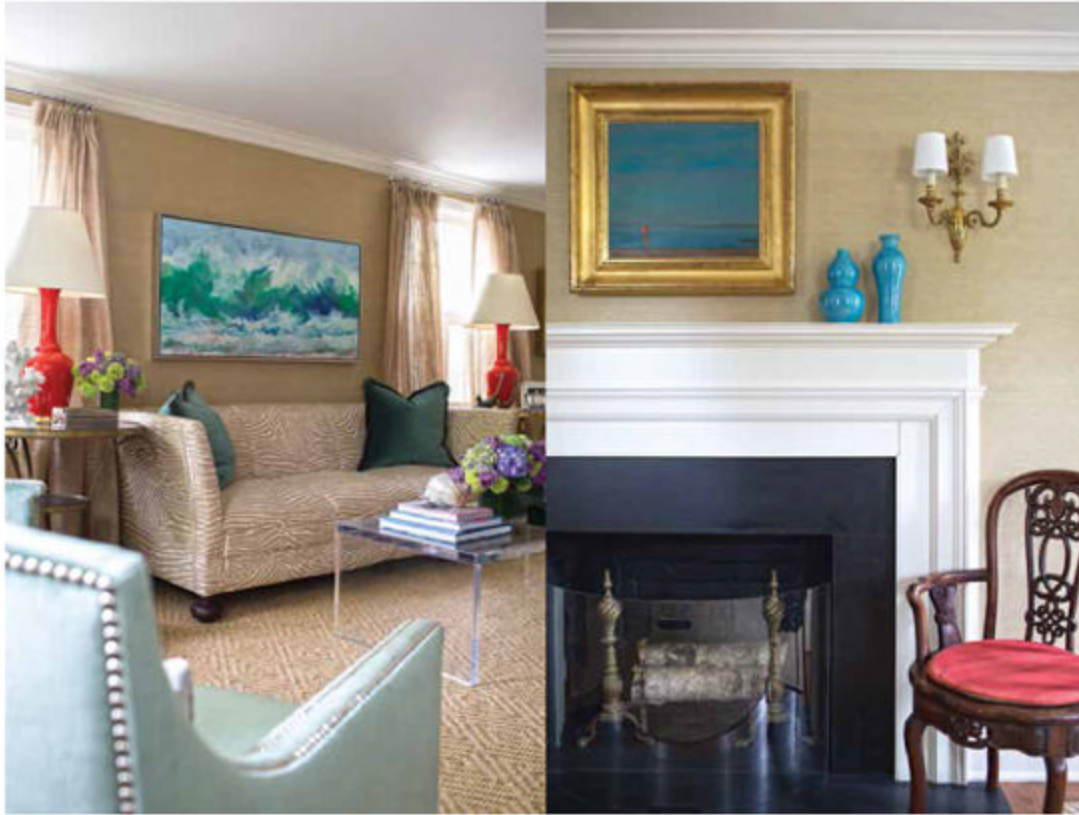
For homeowner Virginia Cargill, this old, historic Southport cape was a fresh, new start. Over her thirty years of living in the town, she had made homes in several types of houses, most recently a much larger one on the harbor, where she lived with her two sons for about fifteen years. With the boys graduated from college, she took a second look at her place and decided it was time for a change. "It was an opportune time to downsize," says Virginia, who has a deep appreciation for the history of the town and decided to continue creating her personal history there with this move.

When Southport was a big onion-shipping harbor, the captains of the ships lived in the Victorian homes on Westway Road (one of which Virginia lived in at one time), and the tradesman lived in the capes on Main Street (where she currently resides). "I enjoyed the historical element of it," says Virginia. But going to a home half the size



Watson found inspiration
in this home's symmetry,
aligning an intricate pattern
of scrolled anchors
sculpted from boxwood
with the grand





this spread: The front living room has style from the past and present, with a Lucite coffee table, and an antique Chinoiserie chair and vintage sconces. A Bunny Williams sofa upholstered in a fabric from Brunswick & Fils, and draperies in a Schumacher fabric add neutral texture. The bright lamps are Christopher Spitzmiller, and the wallpaper is a Phillip Jeffries grass cloth.



"One of the directions we were trying to go in was
to make it **SIMPLE, PRETTY,** and very **HAPPY.**"

—PARKER ROGERS



Watson found inspiration in this home's symmetry, aligning an intricate parterre of scrolled anchors sculpted from boxwood with the grand front entrance. **opposite:** The anchor motifs in the parterre refer to the clients' love of the water.

The patterned chair is the basis of the rest of the design. "That chair was the starting point for the house," says Parker. The coral pulled from the motif carries throughout the rest of the home.





Watson found inspiration in this home's symmetry, aligning an intricate parterre of scrolled anchors sculpted from boxwood with the grand front entrance. **opposite:** The anchor motifs in the parterre refer to the clients' love of the water.



The kitchen is perfectly positioned to serve dinner with ease on the terrace and has a clear view straight into the family room. opposite: The banquette makes great use of a tight space—just right for cozying up with a book or providing extra seating at a party.

of her previous one called for some serious purging of her inherited furniture collection—pieces of history she had to part with in order to make the move.

The house itself saw some renovations as well, to make it more open and better suited to entertaining. Virginia credits landscape architect Silvia Erskine (who is also an architect and interior designer) with the idea to lower the stone wall out front to better show off the home, and to extend the patio back forty feet, instead of the initially proposed twenty. A side entrance opens up the house without altering the historic front façade.



*The guest bedroom features
Phillip Jeffries paper and
Quadrille drapes.*





The guest bedroom is calm and comfortable; the Quadrille fabric used on a chair in the library is also used on the dining room drapes; Virginia's desk belonged to her father. His portrait hangs above.

For the interiors, she called on Parker Rogers and Katie Holmberg of Parker & Company, who have worked with her on other projects over the last ten years and know her well enough to push her to try some new pieces in her older home.

"It's fun to work with people you know, and that frankly are honest enough to say, 'Virginia, this is the right thing, live with it for a while'...I think you need that, you need to have the back and forth," says the homeowner.

Her new home was an opportunity to embrace a new look—and in doing so, to let go of some pieces that just didn't work. "It was that moment when you realize you don't have to live with all of your mother's stuff," laughs Virginia. But she did keep the pieces in the family, sending many to her niece and nephews for their own homes, including an "old-school" mahogany dining table and needle-point chairs whose sentimental value was priceless—but whose stylistic value could be quantified.

Katie describes this project as a clean slate: "It was an opportunity to take the things that she really liked and that were important to her and build a new aesthetic around those pieces."

But that's not to say all of her family heirlooms went to the next generation—keeping some special pieces for herself is what makes this home truly personal. The designers blended many of her antiques with new fabrics and pieces to create a very fresh, modern interior. "One of the directions we were trying to go in was to make it simple, pretty, and very happy," says Parker. They brought in some brighter,

more feminine fabrics than Virginia maybe would have gravitated toward herself, and incorporated key family pieces like her father's desk (his portrait also hangs over it), and the antique bureau in the living room that belonged to her mother.

Parker kept continuity in the design by using the same rug in both the front and rear rooms, and using the color coral throughout. Though used more predominately in the back dining room/family room, and sprinkled throughout the front living space, it creates a visual continuity in the small cape. In the living room, the colorful fabric on the chair was originally going to be used for the drapes (on a shopping trip to New York, it was Virginia who landed on the metallic open-weave fabric that ended up being used), and the colors of the room were pulled from there.

The small home feels both cozy and spacious, thanks to a well-planned design and layout. Inspired by a trip to a friend's home in Nice, Virginia had also asked the designers to create many different seating areas to give her lots of options and make the house feel larger. The designers mapped it all out, dividing up the rear of the home into distinct kitchen, family room, dining room, and library spaces, and giving her different areas to sit and relax in the living room, too. The outdoor space is a major part of the house as well. For three seasons a year, the patio is in heavy use. "It feels like a whole other room," says Virginia. French doors off the rear of the house open onto the outdoor terrace, making it feel like an extension of the home.

With a great design and strict editing, this home proves that down-



sizing can make a person feel lighter, more vibrant, and more at home. “It feels very complete,” says Holmberg. “Fresh, modern, and happy are the words that come to mind,” says Parker.

Their firm always strives to make spaces that both look good and feel good to their clients: “Beautiful spaces that are very personal are kind of the golden ticket, if you will,” says Parker. For Virginia, they hit the nail right on the head. “This house is very reflective of who she is today,” says Katie. And who she is, is a woman who loves to share her beautiful spaces, even establishing an annual open house for Southport’s Blessing of the Fleet (the parade marches right by her front door), and inviting friends and neighbors in each Halloween—and in doing so, she continues to create her own history in a town and a home that she loves. ^{ah}

RESOURCES

J. P. Franzen Associates Architects, Southport, franzearchitects.com

Erskine Associates, LLC, Georgetown, erskineassoc.com

Parker & Company, Southport, parkerrogersinteriors.com



The patio is a major entertaining space that Virginia and her guests enjoy almost year-round. The dining furniture is from Restoration Hardware, and the tablecloth is in a Quadrille fabric.

opposite: In the dining area, an antique chest from Virginia's own collection looks great with new dining chairs from Bungalow 5.

*Water, water everywhere:
Arresting views are the
focal point of this
Riverside garden.*



slow reveal

This Riverside garden has evolved around the view.

by ANN KAISER photographs STACY BASS





Planters full of a variety of colorful annuals sit atop stone walls. Lavender grows in the center.

When you've got a water view like the owners of this Riverside home do, it's a no-brainer to make it the focus of the architecture of the house. When the owners, a couple with three now-grown children, first purchased the property sixteen years ago, they undertook a huge renovation to the home—reconfiguring the rooms, replacing windows—but only did minimal landscaping, hesitant to create anything that would detract from the 180 degrees of water view of Cos Cob Harbor and Long Island Sound surrounding their green acres. There was also a convenience factor, as the property was restricted with view easements and wetland concerns. A few years down the road, however, they were ready to take on the challenge of renovating the outdoors, too, and after seeing the work of Sasco Farms Landscape Design on a house tour, called upon owner Dianna Cutler, and landscape designers John Lloyd and Selim Yolac, to help. That call began a ten-year process of developing the landscape

to suit the family's changing needs and lifestyle. The only thing that never changed was the importance of that breathtaking view.

When the team first looked at the property, there were only the pool and a small patio at the rear of the house on site. The first step, “concurrent with the departure of our rollerblading children,” says the homeowner, was softening the entrance to the house by reconfiguring the driveway to create more of a courtyard feel and changing the blacktop to oil and stone. Beyond a low wall is a parterre, with a fountain and Hornbeam hedge, as well as a pair of custom iron gates that lead visitors on a pathway through a cutting garden to the home's front door. The gates and hedge serve to frame the view, but also keep it partly hidden until visitors approach the house further, effectively drawing them in to the landscape. “The house sort of slowly reveals itself as you walk around,” says Dianna. “But the main event is really the Long Island Sound.”

A mix of purple in the form of wispy Walkers Low Neppita and round allium add texture and color to the garden. Wisteria climbs up the pergola.



"The house sort of **SLOWLY REVEALS ITSELF** as you walk around."

—DIANNA CUTLER



A large, two-story house with a wrap-around porch and a large lawn. The house has a dark roof and white columns. In the background, there are trees and another house. A large tree is on the right side of the image. A white umbrella is on the right side of the image. A fence is in the middle ground. A lawn is in the foreground.

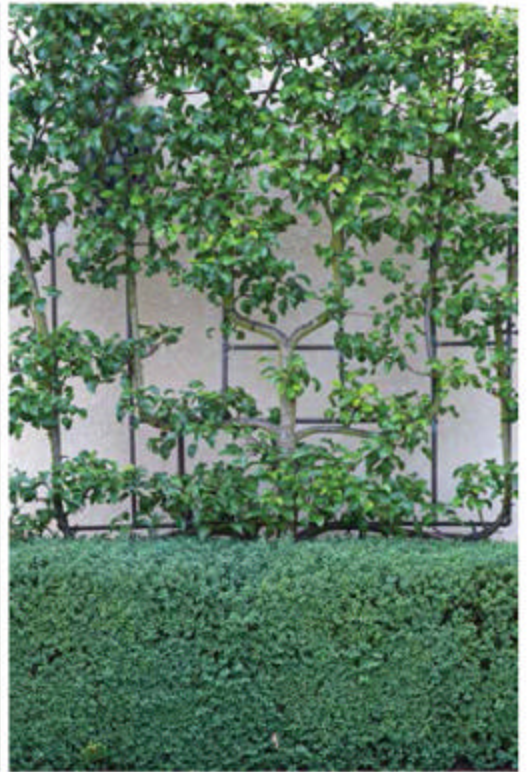
The view of the water
is rivaled only by the
one looking back toward
the house. Grass steps
descending to the water
keep the look lush
and green.

"It all goes back to being **VERY LUSH AND VERY GREEN**, and it is
not supposed to detract from the **VIEW OF THE SOUND**."

—DIANNA C.

Grass joints were
planted among the
Indiana Limestone tiles
around the pool.





clockwise from top left: Pale pink and yellow roses add subtle color; fuchsia peonies about to bloom; an Espalier pear tree grows up through a boxwood hedge; agapanthus; purple allium and walkers low neppeta.



above: The homeowner found the Buddha on her own. It now adds a tranquil vibe to the pool and patio area; A vibrant bud blooms in the rose garden.
opposite: A striped cabana and shaded lounge chairs are the perfect poolside additions. A flowering crabapple tree grows behind the fence.

Over nearly a decade, the team has tackled each area of the property. The year after the driveway was completed, the homeowner asked them to take a look at her outside patio. They ended up redesigning the area around the pool, creating a couple of floating areas where the homeowners could use their outdoor furniture. Though the couple liked the look of grass, they didn't want to put their furniture on a surface that required constant watering, and consequently, constant displacement of their dining table and lounge chairs. Sasco Farms did give them a little green though, adding grass joints between the limestone tiles. Additional hardscaping off the dining room "has increased the function of our space immeasurably," says the homeowner. The rose garden that once bloomed by

the front door was also relocated to a more visible spot by the pool where the family can enjoy it every day.

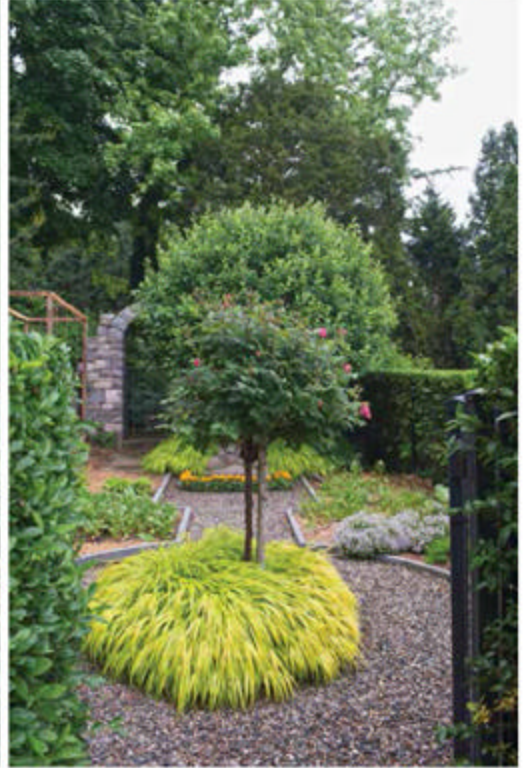
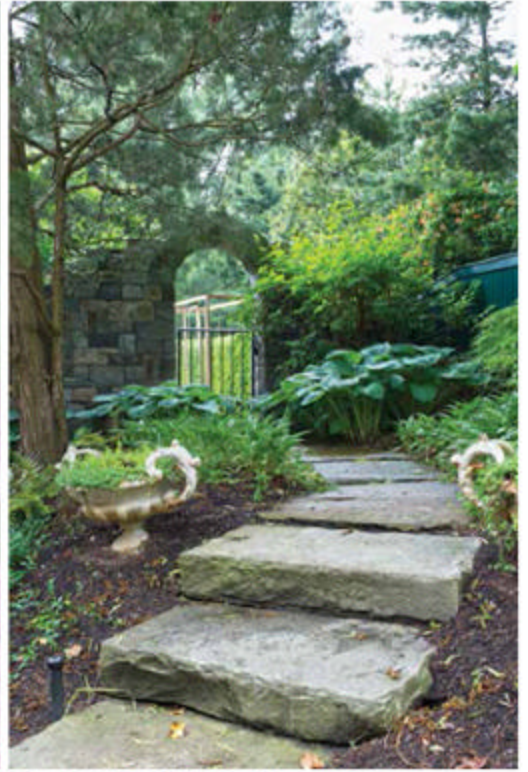
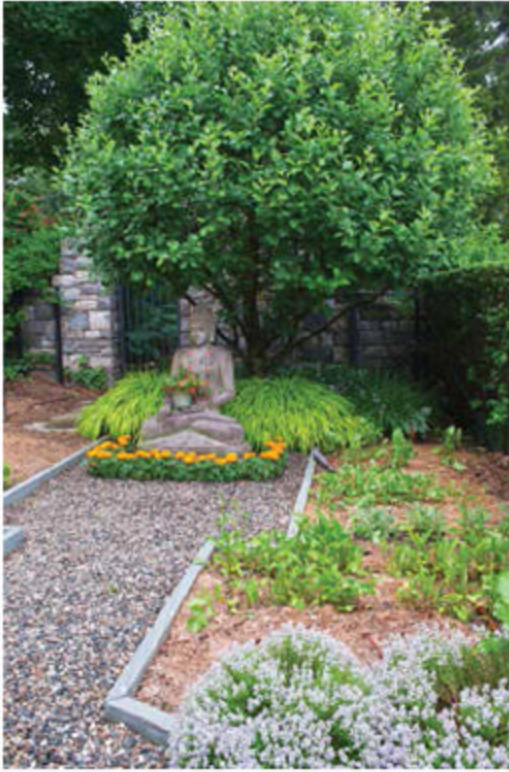
More recently, the homeowner requested an organic vegetable garden. The group identified an already-landscaped spot as the best location for the plot, so another evolution of the grounds took place. The homeowners and their guests now enjoy their fresh veggies in al fresco meals on the patio all summer long, and cold boxes produce lettuce into the winter.

Although she plucks what's ripe from her vegetable garden for dinner, "no one has ever accused me of having a green thumb," says the homeowner, who in addition to being a talented cook, is also a noted watercolorist. "As an artist, visualizing what shapes are needed



Additional hardscaping off the dining room "has increased
THE FUNCTION of our space **IMMEASURABLY.**"

—THE HOMEOWNER



clockwise from top left: Behind the Buddha is a fruiting pear tree, with vegetables and herbs growing along the path; Rhododendron; shade-loving perennials grow along the stone steps; a rose bush underplanted with Hakane grass in the vegetable garden; succulents; bluestone slabs are nestled in the green grass.

is easy for me, she says, “but how to get there is all Sasco Farms.” The coastal location dictated what plants could be used, and the homeowner credits the landscaping team’s “encyclopedic knowledge” of which plants would thrive for saving her from making any botanical missteps. They kept the feeling relaxed, and the look very full and green with touches of blues, pinks, and whites. There are a few repeating elements—a rose garden and rose topiaries, for instance (“We swim amongst fallen rose blossoms all summer long,” says the homeowner)—and neppeta provides year-round color. Lady’s mantle, a favorite by the sea, dots the property, as well as allium, lavender, and Montauk daisies. A few apple trees are planted around the landscape and by the pool, a dappled willow. “It all goes back to being very lush and very green, and it’s not supposed to detract from the view of the Sound,” says Dianna. In the rear, grass steps that

descend to a dock were inspired by the homeowners’ visit to Edith Wharton’s Mount in Massachusetts, and are a more subtle alternative to bluestone.

“The whole house reflects that relaxed formality of the homeowners,” says Dianna. And the landscape design is not only lovely to look at, it encourages that easy way of living that gives the family time to slow down and enjoy, drawing them out onto the patio, the pool, and even the Long Island Sound, where they swim and kayak almost every day in the warmer months. But whatever the season, whatever the viewpoint, the landscape and the view are gorgeous from every angle. **ah**

RESOURCES

Sasco Farms Landscape Design, Southport, sascofarms.com

The rose garden has a mix of varieties, including standard roses on the left, and old English rose varieties framed by boxwood on the right.





This spread: Guests must walk down a few steps and through a small garden area to enter the potting shed/apartment.



by ANN KAISER photographs JONATHAN WALLEN

lightening up

Traditional architecture and contemporary furnishings make a great match.

When architect Dinyar Wadia first built this guest apartment/potting shed on his property in 2005, to accommodate both the many plantings on the property and frequent out-of-town guests, the interiors were decorated to match the English country style of the architecture. “The original interior design was more in the 18th-century vernacular, much darker, with more golds and reds,” says interior designer Saranda Berisa, who works with the architect at his firm, Wadia Associates. To put it bluntly, Dinyar says, “it was old and fuddy duddy”—something he certainly is not. Although the potting shed, which guests walk through on their way up to the apartment, has stayed a kind of castle-like space, the architect decided it was time for a facelift upstairs. “I decided I wanted a more transitional, cleaner, lighter, happier look,” says Dinyar. Without making any structural changes, “We juxtaposed a younger, fresher twist against a historical backdrop,” says Saranda. It now

Saranda tapped New Canaan's The Summer House and Pimlico for accessories. Artwork by photographer Lynne Byrne bursts in the bedroom area.





above: "I think the use of the pink, white, and pale gray really bring it to life," says Saranda. A Saarinen table and sleek desk give the space mid-century style.

has a more open, younger feel and look which guests will love—and which many of Dinyar's younger clients are after.

Lightening things up in the under-500-square-foot apartment also makes the small space feel more open. The design embraces brighter colors, and mid-century pieces that feel fresh and modern. The anchor of the space is the breakfast table and chairs, which the architect spotted while in the UK (and purchased in New York). From there, Dinyar entrusted most of the selections to Saranda, who chose pieces like a Saarinen table and John Robshaw pillows, and a lively color palette of pink, white, and gray. She used local resources like Pimlico and The Summer House for accessories, and included new artwork by Lynne Byrne Photography. "It just goes to show you that a very simple task of a paint job and some furnishings can really change the feel of a space," says the designer.

The new design has set the apartment apart from the potting shed below, which adjoins two greenhouses. Although Wadia enjoys gardening, and his wife loves having potted plants all over the property ("The main inspiration for the garden came from my sweet wife," says Dinyar. "Without her there wouldn't be any of this."), he credits gardener John Horn with maintaining the gardens. "He really is a magician," says Dinyar. The structure and surrounding gardens create an enchanting experience for the guests who get to stay in the apartment—their own little sanctuary, now fresh, lively, and fun.

RESOURCES

Wadia Associates, New Canaan, wadiaassociates.com

Dinyar Wadia, architect

Saranda Berisa, interior designer/decorator



by JAMIE TOURIGNY photographs JANE BEILES

BLUE LAGOON

This pool house is instant summer paradise.



Designer Laura Tutun makes a splash with a paper from Given Campbell's Andover line of wallcoverings in a custom color.

The second floor has a comfy sectional from Crate & Barrel and coffee table from Inmod Furniture.



The look for this pool house is a kind of modern-day Slim Aarons—and designer Laura Tutun didn't disappoint in creating an up-to-date playful, chic look for her clients Karen and Charlie Shaffer that screams "summer." Who wouldn't want to mix up a drink and relax in this fresh, fun pool house? The homeowners, whose main home was featured in "Blue Period" in our May/June 2015 issue, continued the cool color scheme outside too. After moving from a much smaller apartment in the city that was dominated by reds, the couple asked Tutun to go blue in their Connecticut digs.

The major "wow" factor comes from the graphic blue-and-white Given Campbell wallpaper, which Tutun had made in a custom color to match the turquoise pool outside. "You can't look at that wallpa-



Pillows covered in fabrics from Quadrille and Katie Ridder add pops of pattern on the navy sofa. The round blue tray is from Hoaglands of Greenwich.

per without having a smile on your face,” says Tutun. “It’s instant fun.” That fresh, fun backdrop sets the stage for lively get-togethers with friends and family, where the Shaffers and their guests can swim and sun like they’re on vacation, right in their own backyard. “The space has evolved into more than just a pool house,” says Karen. “It’s more like a perfect apartment.”

Pucci-inspired Trina Turk fabrics play an important supporting role in keeping things easy breezy and beautiful. “They are all outdoor fabrics that are forgiving for kids with bowls of chocolate ice cream!” says Laura, whose clients have three kids ages twelve to fourteen. Iconic Tulip chairs around the dining table are comfortable and stylish, and the extendable Crate & Barrel table gives the family flexibility when

they’re entertaining guests, which they do often. “It’s a really fun, happy, family-oriented place,” says the designer.

When they aren’t hosting cookouts and cocktail parties there, the pool house is a great space for the homeowners to lounge and hang out as a family. The navy linen sectional is deep enough to double as a twin-size bed for movie nights, or for kids’ sleepovers with friends. Whatever the occasion, it’s all about having fun, and whether they’re in the water or out, the pool house design always makes a splash.

RESOURCES

Laura Tutun, *Laura Tutun Interiors*, lauratutuninteriors.com
 Given Campbell, *givencampbell.com*



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Robert Couturier

The design phenom—and A-List judge—tells us what makes him feel at home.

My style is...whatever the client wants! I have my own style, of course, which is a combination of antiques and contemporary and a reflection of my taste.

I can't live without...my dogs, music, and books. And probably scents and hot running water—I am not that attached to things.

My favorite piece in my home is...Nothing really. I just love both places, NY and CT, as a whole.

When in Connecticut, I never miss...the chance to breath, slow down, and enjoy nature—specifically my garden, which gives me pleasure, always!



“My dream project is... the next one.”

The first piece I ever bought was...a pair of Eileen Gray armchairs, at Andrée Putnam's Gallery in Paris.

My first project was...designing a wine chateau in Bordeaux.

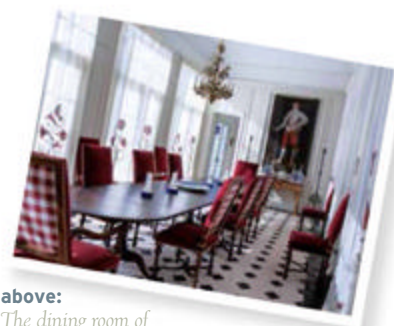
My favorite flower is...peonies.

One thing you may not know about me is...I am very shy.

Where I am happiest...In my home in Kent.

My favorite destination is...Cape d'Antibes, Burgundy.

How I'll be entertaining this summer...Luncheons or dinners: starting with drinks on the terrace, followed by an exquisitely cooked meal in the dining room. Then heading outside after lunch to have coffee in my garden, or after dinner, in my living room.



above:
The dining room of Robert's own home in Kent, Connecticut.

Summer style is all about...seasonal flowers, lots of them! Lighter-colored plates; Meals are lighter, cooler, fresher; Reading in the garden and enjoying my new pool.

Every room needs...a dog.

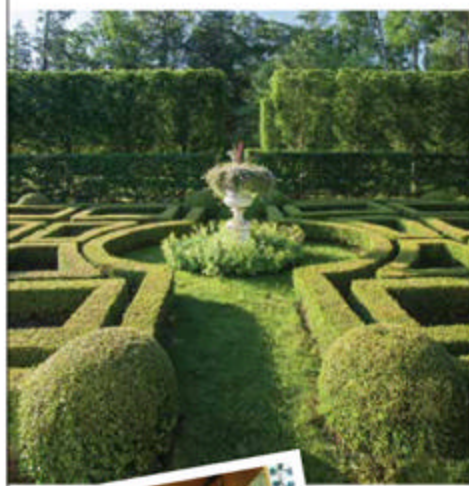
What's on my nightstand...Books, books, books, earplugs, and a reading lamp. Right now I'm reading *The Lady in Gold*.

My favorite names are...My dogs' names: Hercule, Henriette, Dora, and Clara.

My dream project is...the next one.

My favorite project I've ever worked on was...the last one.

What's up next for me...Life never ceases to amaze me. Carpe diem!



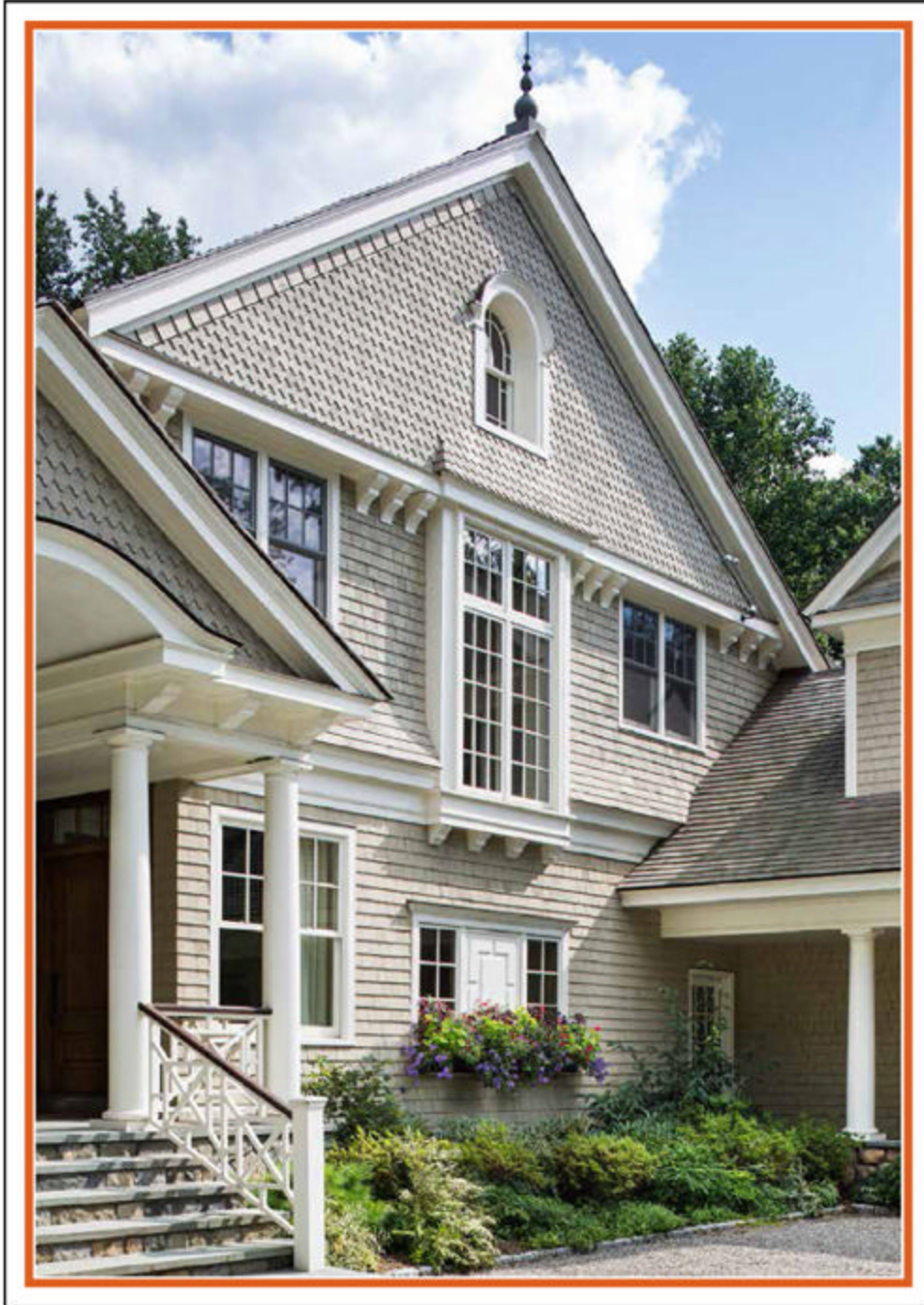
above:
Robert's paradisaical garden in Kent. left:
The designer's beloved dogs.



below: *The book on Robert's nightstand. left:*
His favorite flower.



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